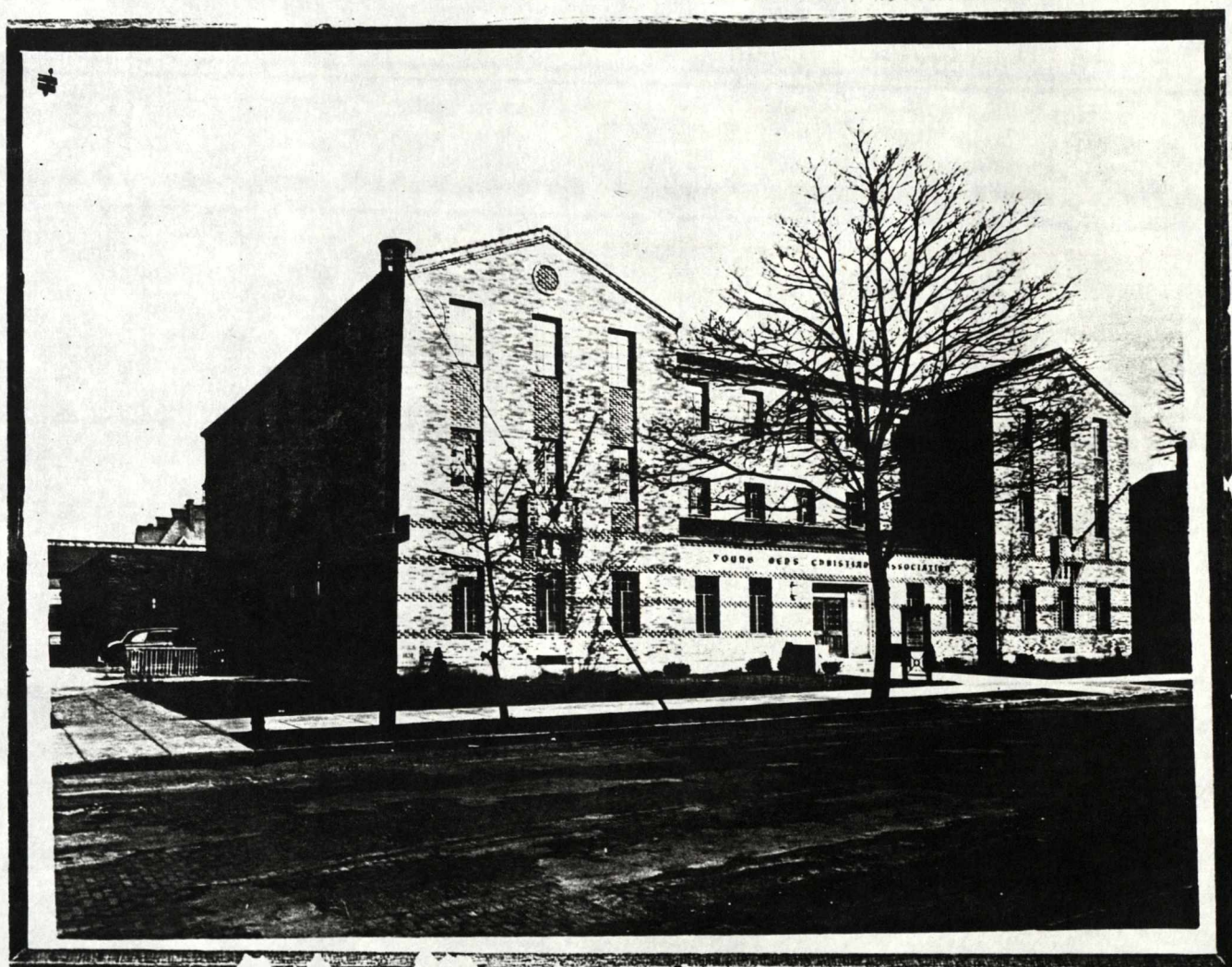
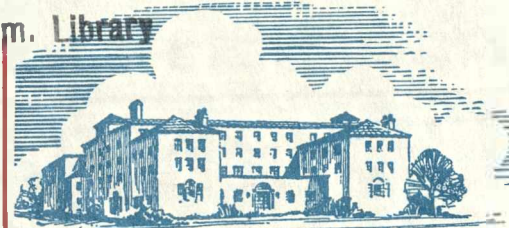


Y. M. C. A.

(For original photograph see : CAF - Archives,
Photographs)



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION



200 SOUTH SIXTH STREET

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

The headquarters of the Young Mens' Christian Association is at 200 South Sixth Street, Terre Haute, Indiana.

The Y.M.C.A. has been active in Terre Haute for over three-quarters of a century. The first building, which has long since been torn down, was at 6½ and Ohio streets, now Mace Service parking lot. The present building was constructed in 1940 and is valued at \$1,150,000.

The "Y" primarily serves men and boys age 7 on up, but women and girls are also included in the membership. Services include a wide variety of physical activities such as: basketball, softball, golf, bowling, handball, squash, wrestling, judo, weightlifting, swimming, etc. The Y has a fine Business Mens' Club, which gives such services as deep heat therapy, massage, diathermy short wave, whirlpool baths, steam baths, heat room, infra-red, ultra violet, relaxing lounge. Social activities include ballroom dancing, square dancing, chess club, stamp club, table tennis and many other games in the boys' recreation room. The dormitory is a home away from home for young men. The Y Grill, which is open to the public, serves breakfast and lunch five days a week.

The Y.M.C.A. secures it's funds from membership, room rentals, etc. which amounts to over \$60,000. per year. It also receives assistance from the United Fund in the amount of approximately \$28,000.

Most of the Y services are obtained through Y membership.

Through the summer months we have a widely varied program for boys which includes Day Camps, State Park trips, Industrial tours, craft work and various out-of-town swimming trips. Most emphasis, however, is placed on learn-to-swim within the building.

1029 12. 8th

YMCA

Community Affairs File

Misc 10/355 Articles of Association of
the YMCA. of Vt.

- art 1 Name
2 Object Phys., social, intellectual & spiritual
3 Directors - Harry P. Doolittle - President -
Wm. H. Wiley - C. Bird King - Robert M. Hollingworth
Geo. P. Duncan - Wm. H. Parham - Jacob A. Parker
Fred L. Reckert - Geo. W. Sanderson - J. Smith Talley
Myron L. Hunt.
4 Sal.
5 No person shall become a Director or
an active member in this Association who
is not a member in good standing of Protestant
Evangelical Church in Vt. and any brother
or active member ceasing to be such shall thereby
forfeit his office and active membership in this
Association.
6 Corp may enact articles and Bylaws for the
better carrying out of the objects and purposes of this
organization but no change shall be made either in
these Articles of Association or in the conditions of membership
required by law.

Antiquated Dec. 11892

NATIONAL ROAD

ADAMSON 912.7 A61. PARPHLET
BURNS IND. H. Soc. PUB. V. - 7 No 9
HOLBERT COMBERLAND ROAD McLEAK
JOHNSON IND. STAR MAG. SEC 3/24/98 P 6-7 Cited
JORDAN 30 3881-176
SPEECHES CONC 308 - 8p33
CHAMBERS INT IMP IN IND 1 MAG Hist V 3 p58/29
FOSTER MEMORIES IMH V 13 p80
LOWE NATL OLD TRAILS 912.7 - L95 PAMP.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

y m c a

December 10, 1949.

Young Men's Christian Association,
Terre Haute, Indiana, Attention of Mr. Tefsted.

Dear Mr. Tefsted,

I have a great deal of the history of the Y.M.C.A. in Terre Haute and can write a very interesting story of the several organizations that preceded the present one.

Much of my information was gained from early newspapers, official records and from some of the pioneers in the movement and is fully documented as to the source of the data.

The earliest attempt at an organization seems to have been in 1867, with another in 1874 that again failed after a few years and was succeeded by another in the early nineties that had the longest life of all.

In all of these early organizations the prevailing element was educational rather than of churchmen, but there was also some of the business and commercial interests involved.

Each in turn failed from lack of support and public interest.

yours very truly,

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

...HISTORY OF THE TERRE HAUTE YOUNG MEN'S...
...CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

With the cheer of "Opening Day" one who has not been directly connected with the Young Men's Christian Association is liable to forget the rigors of those who originated association work in Terre Haute.

The foundations for the present Young Men's Christian Association were laid soon after the Civil War, when an association, crude but effective in a way, was started in a rented room on Wabash avenue. A band of men, among them being Superintendent W. J. Wiley of the city schools, ex-Mayor Fred A. Ross, deceased, and Wm. Walmsley, a merchant who has long since gone to his final reward started the first Young Men's Christian Association in 1807. J. H. Sammis was chosen general secretary and for several years all went well. Instead of being a religious and social affair for the younger people of the city, as the Y.M.C.A. now is, this association was mainly a bank of evangelists who held prayer and song services and kept a reading room open to the members. After a few years Mr. Sammis left Terre Haute and an attempt was made to run the association by voluntary work on the part of members, but this plan did not succeed and in 1872, the efforts was given up as a failure. The constitution of this association is now cherished among the early papers held by the present association, having been given to Secretary C. B. Jamison by Fred A. Ross, a short time before Mr. Ross died.

From 1872 to 1880 Terre Haute was without any form of Young Men's Christian Association and at religious meetings it was considered one of the keenest thrusts possible to cast at the city on the Wabash to say that Terre Haute was the largest unorganized city in the west. But although there was no association the spirit of the work was here and the good people of Terre Haute could not long withstand the taunts of cities where associations were established.

Organized Prayer Band.

Finally in 1889 a "prayer band" was organized and this step finally lead to the present association, ranking foremost in Indiana for wealth and property holdings and second only to Indianapolis in number of members. Under the general Y.M.C.A. rules, there cannot be an association until a general secretary has been called, but the organization is known as a "prayer band." C. B. King was chosen president and served ably in that capacity for a number of years. Mr. King is now in Indianapolis.

In 1891 a public mass meeting was called by the prayer band and a committee of five appointed to have charge of organizing a Young Men's Christian Association to be affiliated with the state and national organizations. The committee consisted of Messrs. J. P. Townley, J. W. Landrum, W. H. Wiley, M. H. Waters and M. A. Hunt, all of whom, save Mr. Hunt who is dead, are members of the present board of association directors. These men negotiated with Mr. Samuel T. Reese to occupy for five years a building to be erected at Seventh and Ohio streets. The amount of rental was to be \$1,250 a year. Mr. Reese erected the handsome building at Seventh and Ohio streets and it was occupied from the latter part of 1892 to December 1902.

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Secretary C. B. Jamison was called to Terre Haute for the first time on September 26, 1892 and addressed a meeting of men at the old Congregational church. A constitution was drawn up and arrangements made with Mr. Jamison to have him become the first general secretary at Terre Haute. The first signer of the constitution was R. W. Thompson.

Thus the association was formed, and while in the minutes of the body the committee of five receives credit for the work, the read honor and praise should be given to Mr. J. P. Townley. He had been a member of the Cincinnati, O., association and as such was the only man who had had any real experience such as was needed in launching the Terre Haute Y.M.C.A. To Prof. W. H. Wiley also belongs much credit, for he alone represented the early attempts made to start an association and his assistance in later years has been almost invaluable.

Secretary Jamison Takes Charge.

Secretary Jamison immediately took charge of the local field. He had traveled a great deal and was acquainted with the work to be done. Handbills were scattered about the city announcing that those interested in Y.M.C.A. affairs and desiring to become members should meet in one of the then unfurnished rooms of the Federal building on October 10, 1892. Mr. Jamison distributed the bills, had charge of the meeting, led in the singing, was the principal speaker, and during his spare time did anything else that would aid in making the association a success. Permission to use the postoffice building for meetings was secured from Postmaster Greiner. When the attendance kept increasing until the room was too small to hold those who attended the meetings Mr. Greiner was surprised and asked Mr. Jamison what he was trying to do. It did not take long for Mr. Greiner to learn for himself.

(Passage was unreadable)

The young association, started under such favorable circumstances met with a severe struggle during the panic of 1892. Along with hundreds of other orders, benevolent and social, Christian or heathen, the Y.M.C.A. was threatened with bankruptcy. Members were hard pressed and it was difficult to collect dues. There was no other income and the sky grew darker every day. By dint of hard work, saving every cent possible to lay hands upon, the panic was passed and the Y.M.C.A. again started on its journey of progress and prosperity.

Gift of Mr. Reese.

The five years of the lease of the building expired in 1897 and a committee was appointed to visit Mr. Reese to try and renew the right of the association. To the amazement of all Mr. Reese stated that he had resolved to make the association the gift of the building, valued at \$16,000. The gift was announced at Christmas to the directors, but a binding obligation was that there should be no publicity in the fact that the association had been so nobly assisted. Mr. Reese disliked newspaper notoriety and wanted the gift kept a secret. For a month it was not breathed outside of the association board.

From 1897 the association has grown rapidly. The gift freed the members of the incumbrance of rent and the money received from leases on the two rooms below the association headquarters assisted considerably in paying current expenses. Fred A. Barns, now of Cambridge, Mass., had been called as physical director in 1892, but in 1896 he resigned, and Prof. J. P. Kimmell, now of the Indiana State Normal school and president of the State Intercollegiate Athletic association, was chosen his successor.

Mr. Kimmeil remained two years, bringing the athletic and gymnastic work to an exceedingly high standard in a remarkably short time. His good services were noted all over the state and it was not surprising that the Indiana State Normal school should ask him to take charge of its classes. He was succeeded by Prof. Fred A. Dubridge, the present incumbent, and an excellent teacher. Mr. Dubridge had attended Lake Forrest university and was thoroughly trained in all kinds of athletic and gymnastic work. At the time he was asked to come to Terre Haute he was acting secretary of the Henderson, Ky., association.

Demands New Building.

In 1900 and 1901 it was seen that the association was growing too large for the quarters at Seventh and Ohio streets. The directors began to look around for a new building and after much discussion decided that the Terre Haute club property was very desirable. The club was about to disband but for several months no decision could be reached and the association officials were unable to close the deal for the building and fixtures until Dec. 15, 1901 and the papers for the sale were not finally drawn up until March 24, 1902. The club property was purchased for the sum of \$15,000.

Such a large amount of money was not then in the hands of the board of directors, but in order to raise what was needed a citizen's committee of 100 men was named to ask subscriptions of persons in Terre Haute who were in favor of the good work. The first subscription was that of the president of the association, J. Smith Talley, who gave \$5.00 cash. On August 21, 1902, the contract for building the gymnasium was let to Salmon Brewer for the sum of \$16,500. The building was erected according to plans and specifications prepared by Architect W. H. Floyd.

The remodeled Terre Haute club property, the new gymnasium and the Samuel T. Reese building are now held by the association at a total valuation of something near \$50,000.

The religious work, the physical and athletic training now ranks the highest of any association in the state. During the past ten years the Terre Haute Y.M.C.A. has lost but one athletic contest and that was to Chicago. The educational development has been retarded by the cramped quarters but with the Reese building to use for classes it is the intention to increase the capacity and efficiency of the night schools until they will be unsurpassed. Among the athletes who have gone from the local association to make names for themselves are Charles Minter, now physical director of the Evansville Y.M.C.A., Bert Modesitt, of the Anderson Y.M.C.A., P. J. Stevens of the East Liverpool, O., Y.M.C.A., Albert N. Morris of the Kenosha, Wis., Y.M.C.A., E. W. Hoff, late of the Scranton, Pa., Y.M.C.A., Charles A. Sartin, physical director of DePauw University at Greencastle, Ind., Marvin Markle, of the University of South Dakota at Mitchell, S. D. This record is unduplicated by any association in the west with the exception of Detroit, Mich.

Thus after all while the early Young Men's Christian Association supporters taunted Terre Haute for being slow in organizing, it is seen that this city can lead in Christian work as well as in commercial and manufacturing enterprises.